## Contents

List of Illustrations xi  
Acknowledgments xiii  

**Chapter 1.** Introduction  
Zanzibar History, Slavery, and Abolition 10  
Culture and Community in Urban Zanzibar 20  
Ethnicity, Identity, and Belonging 28  
Being and Becoming an Arab: Citizenship, Consumption, and Race 41  
Methodology 56

**Chapter 2.** Dressing Up: Clothing, Class, and Gender in Post-Abolition Zanzibar 64  
Dress, Class, and Ethnicity in the Nineteenth Century 67  
Dressing Up: New Identities and New Clothes 74  
Islam, Veiling, and Respectability 85  
Gender, Politics, and Cultural Change 96  
Conclusion 108

**Chapter 3.** “The Land Is Ours! Why Should We Pay Rent?”: Land, Law, and Housing in Colonial Ng’ambo 110  
From Kiungani to Ng’ambo 113
## Contents

Hut Tax, Ground Rent, and Resistance to World War I 129  
Transformations in Urban Land Tenure and the Early Years of Ground Rent in Ng’ambo 133  
Growing Tensions over Ground Rent 140  
The Ground Rent Strike of 1928 148

**Chapter 4. The Music of Siti binti Saad:**  
Creating Community, Crafting Identity, and Negotiating Power through Taarab 169  
Taarab and the Creation of a Zanzibari Identity 171  
Background on the Band and the Role of Religion in Their Rise to Fame 175  
The Creative Context of Siti’s Songs 182  
Continuity and Change in the Constellations of Colonial Power 185  
Gender and the Colonial Courts 195  
“When you wanted me I stayed with you / Now you do not want me I have no need for you”: Love, Sex, and Rejection between the Wars 209  
Conclusion 223

**Chapter 5. Colonial Politics, Masculinity, and Football**  
The Early Years of Football in Zanzibar 228  
The Politics of Sport in Colonial Zanzibar 240  
Ethnicity, Nationalism, Masculinity, and Community: The Multiple Meanings of Football in Island Life 248  
Conclusion 264

**Chapter 6. Conclusion**  
Notes 273  
Glossary 331  
Bibliography 335  
Index 365
Illustrations

Figures

Fig. 1.1. Ng’ambo from Stone Town, with creek at high tide, 1903 21
Fig. 1.2. Stone Town from Mnazi Mmoja, with creek at low tide, c. 1900 23
Fig 2.1. A male Arab of Zanzibar wearing a kilemba, kanzu, waist scarf, jamba, and short jacket 65
Fig. 2.2. Male slaves wearing winda made of merikani cloth 66
Fig. 2.3. Female vibarua employed as construction workers wearing kaniki, merikani, and early kanga designs 67
Fig. 2.4. A suria of Seyyid Said wearing a barakoa and shela, accompanied by a young Nyasa slave attendant wearing merikani 69
Fig. 2.5. Seyyida Salme Said (later known as Emily Ruete) wearing marinda pants and a barakoa 70
Fig. 2.6. Aziza, the niece of Governor Seyyid Suleiman 71
Fig. 2.7. A Zanzibari Arab wearing a kilemba, joho, and jamba 72
Fig. 2.8. A Swahili man of Zanzibar wearing a kofia 72
Fig. 2.9. A Swahili family from Mombasa 73
Fig. 2.10. A Swahili woman of Zanzibar wearing an ukaya 73
List of Illustrations

Fig. 2.11. Swahili women wearing kantas and grinding grain 79
Fig. 2.12. Women wearing kantas and men wearing kanzus and kofias in Zanzibar, c. 1910 87
Fig. 2.13. Zanzibari women wearing buibuis 88
Fig. 2.14. Zanzibari women wearing buibuis in the ghubighubi style and marinda pants 89
Fig. 2.15. Siti binti Saad 95
Fig. 2.16. Swahili woman of Zanzibar wearing a kilemba, kanga, and marinda pants 102
Fig. 2.17. Seyyida Salme Said (later known as Emily Ruete) 103
Fig. 2.18. Amina Seif Othman (BiAmina Mapande), nyakanga (leader) of mkinda initiation, during a performance of ndege 104
Fig. 3.1. A street in Ng’ambo, c. 1900 114
Fig. 3.2. Swahili women at a well 136
Fig. 3.3. Ng’ambo, c. 1920 137
Fig. 3.4. A street in Ng’ambo and a woman wearing a kaniki 142
Fig. 5.1. Malindi Sports Club, 1950, with the Rankine Cup 227
Fig 5.2. Miembeni Sports Club, 1952, with the Jinnah Cup and the Rankine Cup 239
Fig 5.3. African Sports Club, 1952 249
Fig. 5.4. Arab Sports Club, 1949, with the Kettles-Roy and Zeigler Cup and the Jinnah Cup 253
Fig. 5.5. Kikwajuni Sports Club, 1943, with the Kettles-Roy and Zeigler Cup 254

Maps

Drawn by the author
1.1. Western Indian Ocean and East African Trade Routes 11
1.2. Zanzibar and Selected Towns 12
1.3. The Growth of Urban Zanzibar 17
3.1. Nineteenth-Century Land Control and Major Wakf Properties 119
3.2. Control of Land in Ng’ambo, c. 1928 138
3.3. Housing in Urban Zanzibar, c. 1939 151
5.1. Selected Urban Neighborhoods, c. 1940 232